

Classification Information Sheet

Wheelchair Curling

This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Wheelchair Curling. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the [World Curling Federation](#) classification rules.

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the World Curling Federation classification rules to determine the following:

1. Does the athlete have an eligible impairment type?

An athlete must have a permanent eligible impairment type and provide medical documentation detailing their diagnosis and health condition.

2. Does the athlete meet the minimum impairment criteria for the sport?

Specific criteria applied to each sport to determine if a person's impairment results in sufficient limitation in their sport. This is called the minimum impairment criteria.

3. What is the appropriate class to allocate the athlete for competition?

Classes are detailed in the classification rules for the sport and a classifier determines the class an athlete will compete in.

Which Paralympic impairment groups compete in Wheelchair Curling?

Athletes are required to have a permanent, eligible impairment and will be required to provide medical diagnostic information about their diagnosis and impairment.

Impairment		Examples of health conditions (Guide Only)
Physical Impairment	Limb loss or deficiency	Amputation from trauma, illness; or Limb deficiency from birth
	Loss of muscle power	Spinal cord injury, Poliomyelitis, Spina Bifida, Transverse Myelitis, Sacral Agenesis, Spinal Tumours, Muscular dystrophy, Polyneuropathy
	Hypertonia Ataxia	Cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, stroke, brain tumour, Multiple sclerosis, cerebellar ataxia, Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis or other conditions where hypertonia (spasticity, rigidity or dystonia), or ataxia are present.
	Joint movement restrictions	Arthrogryposis, Talipes Equinovarus, joint fusions

What is the Minimal Impairment Criteria?

Specific criteria applied to each sport to determine if a person's impairment results in sufficient limitation in their sport. This is called the minimal impairment criteria. This information is further detailed in the ICF Wheelchair Curling Classification rules.

Impairment		Minimal Impairment Criteria (Guide Only)
Physical Impairment*	Limb loss or deficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Bilateral above ankle amputation; or– Unilateral hip disarticulation; or– Unilateral above knee amputation and loss of muscle strength in other leg of less than 25/40 (tested as below for 'loss of muscle power')
	Loss of muscle power	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Loss of muscle power in lower limbs, with testing being less than 40 out of 80 points.– Tested movements include Hip (extension, flexion, adduction and abduction), knee (flexion and extension), and ankle (plantarflexion and dorsiflexion)
	Hypertonia Ataxia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Hypertonia in the lower limbs graded using the Ashworth Scale at grade 3 or grade 4 and sufficient to prevent all ambulation or limit it to very short distances indoors– Incoordination in the lower limbs, possible in combination with loss of strength and hypotonia with the objective signs of ataxia so that ambulation is prevented or limited to very short distances indoors.
	Joint movement restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Severe permanent loss of joint range of 50% across 2 or more of the large joints (ie. hip, knee, ankle) in both legs

*NB – Any combination of above impairments, which is severe enough to confine athlete to wheelchair for daily activity.

Minimum impairment criteria is further detailed in the [World Curling Federation classification rules](#).

What are the Paralympic classes for this sport?

In Wheelchair Curling there is only one sport class. Athletes have to have a significant impairment in the lower part of their body which restricts leg/gait function. Players commonly use a wheelchair for mobility or are ambulant over short distances.

Class	Examples (Guide Only)
Eligible (WC-E)	Meets the minimum impairment for the sport.
Not Eligible (WC-NE)	Does not meet the minimum impairment for the sport.

How do I get classified?

Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in a particular sport. Currently there is no opportunity to be classified in Australia for Wheelchair Curling.

Further Information

National	Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500	 Paralympics Australia 
International	World Wheelchair Curling	